

Message Text

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PASS GENERAL SCOWCROFT

FOLLOWING REPEAT TEL AVIV 3338 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
AMMAN BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS 30 MAY.

QUOTE

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3338

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SUBJECT: REPORTAGE OF ISRAELI WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDING
MAY 30 ON US POLICY OPTIONS

1. SUMMARY: WASHINGTON-BASED ISRAELI REPORTERS SPECULATE
ON US ADMINISTRATION POSITION ON MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE IN
GENERAL AND ON FORTHCOMING MEETINGS OF PRESIDENT FORD
WITH PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIMIN RABIN. END SUMMARY.

2. FRONT-PAGE STORIES IN DAVAR AND JERSUALEM POST(BLITZER)
REPORT WITHOUT COMMENT CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR'S STORY
OF MAY 29 THAT US IS CONSIDERING AN OPTION FOR MIDDLE
EAST REASSESSMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUD NEARLY TOTAL WITH-
DRAWAL BY ISRAEL IN EXCHANGE FOR NEW"IRONCLAD" US
GUARANTEE OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY.

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3. HAARETZ WASHINGTON
REPORTER (MARGALIT) WRITES THAT
THE WHITE HOUSE IS MORE INTERESTED THAN STATE DEPARTMENT
IN EXAMINING HOW TO PROGRESS TOWARDS AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT

IN MIDDLE EAST. ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, A GROUP OF WHITE HOUSE ADVISERS IS OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ADVANCE IN STAGES, BUT FINAL AIM MUST BE PREDETERMINED. PRESIDENT FORD IS SERIOUSLY EXAMINING POSSIBILITY OF READOPTING ROGERS PLAN BORDERS WITH THE ADDITION OF SEVERAL ELEMENTS WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN ISRAEL. ONE POSSIBILITY CITED IS AN AMERICAN-ISRAELI DEFENSE PACT APPROVED BY CONGRESS. THE AGREEMENT MIGHT BE STRENGTHENED BY SOME CONNECTION WITH NATO AND USE OF AMERICAN BASES IN ISRAEL.

4. ON FORD-SADAT MEETING, MARGALIT SOURCES AMERICAN CIRCLES AS SAYING THAT PRESIDENT FORD WILL MAKE SADAT TEMPTING PROPOSITIONS IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD AND VARIOUS OTHER IMPORTANT AREAS IN RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT FORD WILL OFFER EGYPT DIVERSIFIED AID, INCLUDING DOUBLING THE AMOUNT OF DIRECT AID, EXTENDING SALE OF WHEAT TO EGYPT AND ASSISTANCE IN REPAYING ITS SHORT TERM DEBTS. THE SAME AMERICAN CIRCLES ALSO DISCUSS ISRAELI POSITION AND DEFINE IT AS "MODERATE ON CONDITION". THEY HOPE THAT ISRAEL WILL GO FAR IN ITS PROPOSALS IF PRESIDENT SADAT GIVES PRESIDENT FORD ANY CAUSE FOR HOPE. AT ANY RATE, WRITES MARGALIT, "THE CIRCLES ARE CAREFUL IN INTERPRETING SIGNALS COMING FROM ISRAEL...BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE."

5. YEDYOT'S WASHINGTON REPORTER (KIVITI) WRITES THAT JERUSALEM WILL RECEIVE CONTINUOUS REPORTS ON TALKS BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT. "THE PURPOSE OF THE REPORT WILL BE TO UPDATE GOI ON EGYPTIAN POSITION ON AN INTERIM SETTLEMENT. PRIME MINISTER RABIN WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES IN JERUSALEM ON ANY NEW EGYPTIAN IDEA BEFORE MEETING HIMSELF WITH PRESIDENT FORD IN WASHINGTON. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT EXPECTED THAT IN SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH SADAT AND RABIN THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL ATTEMPT PERSONAL MEDIATION... IT IS EXPECTED THAT HE WILL USE HIS INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE IN AN EFFORT TO

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BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE POSITION OF THE SIDES..." KIVITI ADDS THAT ACCORDING TO AMERICAN SOURCES IN WASHINGTON "THE ADMINISTRATION NO LONGER EXPECTS UNILATERAL CONCESSIONS FROM ISRAEL AND PRESIDENT FORD WILL TELL SADAT THAT IN HIS VIEW EACH SIDE MUST CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE..." VELIVOTES

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